

Venezuela seeks wedding  
party cholera victims pg 2



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ATA Privatization pg 3

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# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Preparatory Workshops for the Pan American Conference on Childhood Obesity are now in session on Aruba



Participants in the Preparatory Workshop for the Pan American conference on Childhood Obesity



Sherry Pfohl of Presidents Council on Physical Fitness

An initiative of Aruba's Minister of Public Health and Sport, Dr. Richard Visser, has resulted in the first Pan American Conference on Childhood Obesity, to take place in Aruba from June 8 to 11. Minister Visser welcomed what can

only be described as "heavy hitters" in the fields of Chronic Illness and Obesity for a three-day session, which began on January 26, to prepare for the upcoming conference.

Island media were introduced to Dr. Richard Atkinson, Founder and Director of the Obetech Obesity Research Center, Virginia, Dr. Heidi Blanck, Senior Epidemiologist from the CDC, President of the Pan American Health and Education Foundation, (PAHEF), Dr. Benjamin Caballero, a professor at John Hopkins University and Shellie Pfohl, Executive Director of the President's Council on Physical Fitness, representing the interests of the U.S.A. Delegates Dr. James Hospedales, Enrique Jacoby, Dr. Manuel Pena and Dr. Godfrey Xuereb are here on behalf of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Visser also introduced Dr. Fitzroy Henry, Director of the Caribbean

Food and Nutrition Institute, Jamaica, Professor Waldir Coutinho, Associate Professor of Endocrinology at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and President of the International Association for the Study of Obesity, (IASO) and Dr. E. Fernandez, Manglaralto Hospital, Ecuador, who provide voices from the region on this problem.

The objective of this workshop, along with laying the groundwork for the June conference, is to identify specific interventions that can be adjusted and applied to solve the problem of obesity in the Americas. The conference will also result in a White Paper to be presented at a significant and historical United Nations Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases to be held in New York in September. The UN Summit on NCD's is the second of its kind to focus on a global disease issue.

Continued on page 3

## Dr. Ryan Peterson "State of the Union" – "State of Aruba"?



See story on page 3

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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**



TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- AFP photo shows FNRP supporters of ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya standing a demonstration in Tegucigalpa demanding his return on January 27, 2011, during the first anniversary of the inauguration of President Porfirio Lobo.



MEDELLIN, Colombia -- AFP photo shows Colombian chef Juan Manuel Barrientos (L) eating a part of a wedding dress during his conference "The Textiles That Are Eaten" at the Colombia tex fair on January 26, 2011 in Medellin, Antioquia department, Colombia. Barrientos presented wedding dresses and shoes made entirely of edible materials.

## Mandela 'very sick' but life not in danger

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AFP) - South Africa's revered former president Nelson Mandela yesterday was described as "very sick" but his condition was "not life threatening," a source close to the anti-apartheid icon told AFP.

The news that Madiba -- the clan name by which the 92-year-old Nobel peace prize winner and country's first elected black leader is affectionately known -- will spend a second night in hospital gripped the nation.

The public has grown increasingly concerned for Mandela's health but he could be released as early today, the source said on condition of anonymity.

"The old man is very sick but his condition is not life threatening," the source said.



"He came in for a check-up but the doctor decided to keep him in for observation. He is still not well but we expect him to be released tomorrow."

No hospital or medical official contacted by AFP would confirm that Mandela would soon be discharged from Milpark hospital in Johannesburg where he was admitted on Wednesday.

President Jacob Zuma described the hospital visit as a check-up and called for calm but a report said Mandela had been treated for a lung problem.

## Venezuela seeks wedding party cholera victims

CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) - Venezuelan health authorities appealed yesterday to more than 400 people exposed to cholera at a wedding in the Dominican Republic to report for treatment in order to head off an epidemic.

So far, 37 people have been treated for cholera in Venezuela but authorities were still trying to locate the rest of the 452 people who traveled to the Dominican Republic for the January 22 wedding.

"For us it's important, indispensable, that everyone who attended this event cooperate," said Health Minister Eugenia Sader at a news conference.

"We ask them to seek treatment because they may not have symptoms but be carriers of the bacteria. It's in your hands to keep Venezuela from having an epidemic," she said.

Sader said Venezuela has had no cholera in a decade, and

health officials have emphasized that it was crucial to gain control of the outbreak in the first 24 to 48 hours to prevent the imported bacteria from becoming established here.

Besides the 37 cholera patients in Caracas, 12 Venezuelans infected with the bacteria were still in the Dominican Republic and four others traveled to Spain, Mexico and the United States.

Though treatable, the disease can strike swiftly, causing intense diarrhea, vomiting and nausea that leads to severe dehydration and possibly death.

The cholera bacteria was believed to have been transmitted in contaminated food served at the wedding.

The Dominican Republic shares a porous border with Haiti, where more than 4,000 people have died and 209,000 have been infected in a cholera epidemic since October.

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## Parliament ready to address ATA privatization

Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber expressed satisfaction for the transparent process conducted for the privatization of the Aruba Tourism Association (ATA). The process which took little more than a year is finally coming to completion in Monday's (Jan.31) Parliament meeting when Parliament addresses this.

According to Oduber it has taken 17 years and 5 government administrations to finally reach this stage next week. A special commission with the assistance of the Aruba Investment Bank was involved in the process to guarantee that we create an institution that complies with all the required standards. Last year the minister met with AHATA (the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association) and signed an MOU outlining various agreements to finally now submit the new law to Parliament for approval.

The minister's wish was to pass this law on the 1st of January 2011, but considering its seriousness, importance and significance for our tourism, it was best to allow ample time for its review and ramification to ensure that we have a better product and an institution that will function in the most optimal manner.

Oduber, asserts that the participation of the private sector in the process was the key to the success of the entire process, which will also make it difficult to ratify in Parliament especially in view of the fact that it entails our major



economic pillar.

He envisions a rather long Parliamentary meeting in view of the various questions already raised with respect to this proposed law.

The Tourism Office will be transformed into an institution that will work much more autonomous within the guidelines stipulated by the government. Oduber remarked that there must be a balance in the execution of the government's management and the tourism department with respect to our tourism, as well as the proper checks and balances to ensure that problems such as is known from Serlimar Sui Generis, Centro Medico and even in the AZV are not repeated here.

Finally, says Oduber..."you want an institution that functions totally autonomously in reference to her income and financial aspects, and in the execution of her programs."

## Preparatory workshops for the Pan American Conference

Continued from page 1

The first UN Summit related to health was the HIV/AIDS meeting in 2001 which led to the creation of the Global Fund.

The Non-Communicable Disease Alliance, or NCD Alliance as it is known, was launched in May 2009 by the International Diabetes Federation, the Union for International Cancer Control and the World Heart Federation. The International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease joined in February 2010. The Alliance represents 880 societies in 170 countries and has its own Web site: [www.ncdalliance.org](http://www.ncdalliance.org).

The current workshop will explore replacing the current obesogenic environment with

a healthier one promoting improved eating habits and changing a sedentary lifestyle, taking into consideration age, gender and profession. They will analyze successful lessons learned about obesity, in particular childhood obesity, with an eye towards proposing effective measures to halt and reverse this epidemic.

It was pointed out that it is appropriate that the conference should take place in Aruba, as small island nations have particular problems with dietary imbalances, and it is the Americas which has the greatest percentage of obese children in the world. Poverty also creates its own problems, as many suffer from anemia and malnutri-

## Dr. Ryan Peterson "State of the Union" – "State of Aruba"?

While most Arubans were listening to an address by their Prime Minister Mike Eman on the island's first major holiday of the year, Betico Croes Day, America was tuning in to President Barack Obama's annual State of the Union speech. One Aruban, Dr. Ryan Peterson, Dean of the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management at the University of Aruba, and the chairman of the newly commissioned National Council for Innovation & Competitiveness, NCIC, admits his attention was turned to international news on January 25.

Dr. Peterson is a political-economy analyst and researcher with a PhD in Economics, MSc in Organization & Management and a BSc in Psychology. Born and raised in San Nicolas, he pursued his education and has been employed in both Holland and the U.S., before returning to assume the role of dean and found a new faculty at U of A. He believes there are distinct parallels between Aruba and the U.S., politically and economically, over the past ten years in particular, and President Obama's speech echoed many of Dr. Peterson's own conclusions of what is needed in Aruba for the island to achieve social and economic sustainability during these "difficult and economically volatile times."

"Any initiative should be put in context," explains Dr. Peterson. "If one looks at the global state of affairs, the in-

novations, the political turmoil and economic crisis, environmental disasters and you put that in conjunction with the local situation; obviously we see that Aruba has prospered over the last twenty years, in relative terms. The question now: How do we continue, increase and share that prosperity across all the people of the nation? Within that context, change and innovation and trying to develop a nationally concerted, collaborative action, is necessary."

"Obviously we have seen over the past 10 years a number of creative initiatives. Yet these individual initiatives, whether public or private, remain disorganized and often contra-productive as they conflict. We see national policies not being consistent or reinforcing one another. The early conceptual philosophical foundations behind the NCIC were begun in the late 1980's by a Harvard Business School professor Michael Porter. It is new to the region; the cataclysm of different global events has resulted in the recognition that we need to improve our capacity here in terms of productivity, our human capital, capability of the work force, infrastructure, education, sustainability towards the long term and our general quality of life."

"Juxtaposing the global state of affairs as to what is going on here on Aruba, requires us to examine what sort of innovation policy we have towards the future that cuts across individual initiatives within the public and private sector. Respecting free enterprise and competition, there are some synergies to be created in terms of efficiency gains, pricing, and transparency that would definitely be more cost-efficient. Our present government proposed this initiative; there is definitely a vision, a clear focus on stimulating entrepreneurship. I think not only in words and thoughts, but in actions, there exists a clear commitment from the present administration. There is a definite conviction that the way business was conducted over the past 20 years, including government business, is not sustainable and change is required, but talk about change is not sufficient.



Ryan Peterson

We can start with small initiatives. Admittedly we have "Great Expectations" for the long term, to quote a certain author; we at the NCIC have no illusions that we will change Aruba in a day or week. While our goals are long term, we build expectations day by day, by delivering on those expectations, so we must work in the short term, step by step."

"We are sure we will have our challenges; any initiative at a national level has them. It is easy to get bogged down in those challenges, we have to look beyond the obstacles and devise solutions; it takes a strong initiative to do that."

"It is necessary as we look to the future, we must keep an eye on the past and present and not repeat the same mistakes or be falling back on old solutions that may have worked twenty years ago, but will not in the current environment. The economic disaster we experienced in 2008 was not a great surprise to most economists; such recessions are not new and the signs were there." Dr. Peterson concluded, reminded of the old adage of being doomed to repeat history if we don't learn from it. He related this to Obama's assertion of "winning the future" during his State of the Union address. "Investing in new business, innovation and the future is a requirement of the U.S. as well; quite interesting, really. I think Obama said it well; "Tonight we are sitting together, but tomorrow we need to work together."

by Rosalie Klein

by Rosalie Klein





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### Main Events 2011

FRI. JAN. 28	CARNIVAL HAPPY HOUR PLACE: PENDING
SAT. JAN 29 7:30 P.M.	ARUBA'S 41ST GRAND TUMBA CONTEST 2011 PLACE: ARUBA ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
SUN. JAN 30 2 P.M.	PARADA DI BLAAS (BALLOON PARADE) SANNICOLAS
MON., JAN 31 7:30 P.M.	PRE-FINALS CALYPSO & ROADMARCH CONTEST 2011 PLACE: JOE LAVEIST SPORTPARK IN SAN NIC.
FRI. FEBR 4 7:30 P.M.	ARUBA'S 17TH MRS. CARNAVAL ELECTION PLACE: ARUBA ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
SAT. FEBR 5 7:30 P.M.	GRAND FINAL CALYPSO & ROADMARCH CONTEST 2011 PLACE: JOE LAVEIST SPORTPARK IN SAN NIC.



## Interpol Delegations visit Aruba Police Force



Last week Aruba's Police Force was host to two different delegations of INTERPOL who were here on work assignments. Various meetings dealing with the development of an INTERPOL Aruba Bureau (NCB Oranjestad) and with the preparations for the July 2011 Regional Conference (21st Americas Region INTERPOL Conference) were conducted.

With respect to the establishment of an Aruba INTERPOL Bureau, various aspects have already been realized since November 2010.

One of the aspects realized is the specialized three-weeks training course in Barbados that Mrs. Sophia-Dania followed regarding the work of INTERPOL.

Secondly, an accord was reached with INTERPOL Lyon to change the entire technical infrastructure of the Aruba Bureau (NCB Oranjestad) with the support of France who is also carrying the cost for the change.

Thirdly, Mr. Brooks, computer specialist, has been assigned to the Bureau to function as its Network Engineer, which was one of France's requirements for the Aruba Bureau.

Currently, practically all the equipment has been renewed with only a few parts left to arrive here to complete the process.

During the first meeting with the Director of the Canada INTERPOL present, they discussed the cooperation between Aruba and France.

The other topic of discussion was the upcoming major conference for all of the departments of INTERPOL in

our region (North-, South-, Central America and the Caribbean). After the group made visits of Aruba's facilities they drew up a plan of action through to July 2011, and made commitments so as to guarantee a successful conference. This will be the first time that a regional conference will be held in the Caribbean which places great pressure on Aruba to ensure that everything is done to perfection.

The main meeting was conducted between the Aruba Commission comprised of: Mr. Zebeda, Mrs. Franken-Thode, Mrs. Arrindell, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Young and Mr. Daly and the INTERPOL LYON delegation (Mrs. Barbier, Mr. Alvarado and Mr. James).

Regrettably, INTERPOL USA director, who was also scheduled to be in Aruba for these meetings were hindered due to unexpected work situations in the US, hence was unable to attend. The group INTERPOL Lyon completed their work here on January 24th.

Top photo shows, standing: E. Zebeda in charge of the renovation project of NCB Oranjestad, P. James, technician of INTERPOL Lyon, J. Alvarado, assistant director for the Americas of INTERPOL Lyon, Mrs. E. Barbier, chief protocol officer of INTERPOL Lyon, Mrs. G.E.M. Hassell, interim chief of police, Mr. R. Resch, director of INTERPOL Canada, Mrs. S. Sophia-Dania and Mr. H. Koolman, both officers of the NCB Oranjestad Bureau; and, Mr. J. Brooks, network engineer, for the NCB Oranjestad Bureau.







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## "Tourism Corporation Bonaire welcomes Mrs. Sharon Bol as Interim Director"

KRALENDIJK, Bonaire – The office of Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) continues to develop in 2011 and recently announced that Mrs. Sharon Bol has been appointed as Interim Director, effective immediately. In this role, Mrs. Bol will be responsible for overseeing all the activities of TCB, its overseas offices and supervising staff members.

"I am pleased to accept this new position at Tourism Corporation Bonaire and look forward to working closely with the staff on Bonaire and in our overseas office to ensure a seamless continuance of TCB's efforts," said Mrs. Bol. "Looking at the importance and growing demand of the tourism sector, I welcome the challenge to work on the many local and international projects planned for 2011."

Most recently, Mrs. Bol



**Some Bonaire Vacation Rentals**

acted as Interim Director of Bonaire's National Library. In this role, she developed her managerial skills and established a strong presence for herself within the community. Mrs. Bol's appointment to the TCB follows the departure of former Director

of Tourism, Mrs. Ronella Tjin-Asjoe Croes.

A search for a permanent Director of Tourism for TCB is in progress. The Board of Directors is currently interviewing candidates that have applied for the position.



## Sci-Tech

# World needs global food system overhaul: report



**A farmer harvests rice in Didpig, north of the Philippine capital Manila. The world needs fundamental changes to the global food system to feed the expanding population, according to a British government report.**

LONDON (AFP) — The world needs fundamental changes to the global food system to feed the expanding population, according to a British government report out this week on how to feed the planet until 2050.

Governments must take action to change dietary habits, cut waste, reduce subsidies and embrace genetically modified food, said the "Global Food and Farming Futures" report.

The study led by Professor John Beddington, the British government's chief scientific adviser, said that with the

global population forecast to reach nine billion in 40 years' time, radical changes were needed to a system already struggling to feed the existing population.

"With the global population set to rise and food prices likely to increase, it is crucial that a wide range of complementary actions from policy makers, farmers and businesses are taken now," Beddington said.

"Urgent change is required throughout the food system to bring sustainability centre stage and end hunger. It is also vital for other areas, such as climate

change mitigation, conflict, and economic growth."

The report found that the threat of hunger could increase, saying that current efforts were already stalling and food prices could rise substantially over the next 40 years.

As hunger spreads, the threat of migration and conflict will increase, while wider economic growth would also be affected, it said.

The global food system is already living beyond its means, consuming resources faster than they can be replenished, it said.

Substantial changes to water and energy use and addressing climate change are needed to bring about sustainability, the report found.

It also warned that there was "no quick fix" to the problems.

Beddington said the world's food system was already failing on two counts.

"Firstly, it is unsustainable, with resources being used faster than they can be naturally replenished," he said.

"Secondly, a billion people are going hungry with another billion people suffering from 'hidden hunger', whilst a billion people are over-consuming."

The report said that new technologies such as genetic modification, cloned livestock and nanotechnology "should not be excluded a priori on ethical or moral grounds" and have the potential to be "very valuable for the poorest people in low-income countries".

Meanwhile investment in technology research is "essential" given the magnitude of the food security challenges ahead.

Britain's Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman said the report showed ways to unlock an "agricultural revolution in the developing world".

New strategies would "benefit the poorest the most, simply by improving access to knowledge and technology, creating better access to markets and investing in infrastructure".

Britain's International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell said that "with one seventh of the world's population still hungry, the report was a clarion call to arms".

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## NASA marks 25 years after Challenger disaster

WASHINGTON (AFP) — NASA on Thursday marked a day of remembrance for astronauts who have died in the line of duty, particularly the victims in the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger 25 years ago.

Schoolchildren and space enthusiasts around the world watched live January 28, 1986 as the Challenger lifted off carrying seven astronauts including the first teacher, Christa McAuliffe, to embark on a mission to space.

The shuttle exploded 73 seconds after launch at an altitude of 14,000 meters (46,000 feet), killing everyone on board.

"This year marks the 25th anniversary of the loss of Challenger -- a tragedy that caused us to completely re-think our systems and processes as we worked to make the shuttle safer," said NASA chief Charles Bolden.

"The nation will never forget January 28, 1986, nor its indelible images."

Engineers determined that the blast was caused by the failure of a joint seal due to cold weather.

Bolden attended a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington

National Cemetery outside Washington on Thursday, and flags at NASA stations were flown at half-mast.

A total of 24 people have been killed while supporting the space agency's mission since 1964, NASA said.

Among them were seven astronauts killed aboard the Columbia in 2003 when the space shuttle disintegrated upon re-entry to Earth due to a damaged heat shield that was compromised by a broken off piece of insulation.

Three astronauts died aboard the Apollo 1 in 1967 when a fire broke out during a launch pad test.

"NASA has learned hard lessons from each of our tragedies, and they are lessons that we will continue to keep at the forefront of our work as we continuously strive for a culture of safety that will help us avoid our past mistakes and heed warnings while corrective measures are possible," Bolden said.

The United States plans to retire its space shuttle program this year. The shuttle Discovery is set to launch on February 24, followed by Endeavour on April 18.



**Examples of the next generation portable entertainment device, codenamed 'NGP' from Sony Computer Entertainment, are on display at an event in Tokyo yesterday. Japanese entertainment giant Sony unveiled the portable touchscreen PlayStation as it looks to launch a fresh challenge to Nintendo and Apple in the competitive mobile gaming market. (AFP PHOTO)**



**File photo shows fishermen in Ilulissat Icefjord, western Greenland, a UNESCO World Heritage site. With the race for Arctic riches steaming ahead, the region's indigenous Inuit are raising their voices and demanding that Arctic nations stop stealing their land and respect their way of life. Arctic waters could hold 25 percent of the world's undiscovered oil and gas, according to a survey. (AFP photo)**





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## Toothache: First aid



Tooth decay is the primary cause of toothaches for most children and adults. Bacteria that live in your mouth thrive on the sugars and starches in the food you eat. These bacteria form a sticky plaque that clings to the surface of your teeth.

Acids produced by the bacteria in plaque can eat through the hard, white coating on the outside of your teeth (enamel), creating a cavity. The first sign of decay may be a sensation of pain when you eat something sweet, very cold or very hot. A toothache often indicates that your dentist will need to work on your teeth.

### Self-care tips

Until you can see your dentist, try these self-care tips for a toothache:

■ Rinse your mouth with warm water.

■ Use dental floss to remove any food particles wedged between your teeth.

■ Take an over-the-counter (OTC) pain reliever to dull the ache.

■ Apply an OTC antiseptic containing benzocaine di-

rectly to the irritated tooth and gum to temporarily relieve pain. Direct application of oil of cloves (eugenol) also may help. Don't place aspirin or another painkiller directly against your gums, as it may burn your gum tissue.

### Call your dentist if:

■ You have signs of infection, such as swelling, pain when you bite, red gums or a foul-tasting discharge

■ The pain persists for more than a day or two

■ You have fever with the toothache

■ You have trouble breathing or swallowing

### Other Oral health problems to report to your dentist

To prevent gum disease and other oral health problems, schedule regular dental cleanings and exams — generally at least once or twice a year. In the meantime, contact your dentist if you notice any signs or symptoms that may suggest oral health problems, such as:

■ Red, tender or swollen gums

■ Gums that bleed when you brush or floss

■ Gums that begin pulling away from your teeth

■ Loose teeth

■ Changes in the way your top and bottom teeth align with each other

■ Unusual sensitivity to hot and cold

Early detection and treatment of oral health problems can ensure a lifetime of good oral health.

## Health & Living

## Bad eating can give you depression: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Eating foods high in trans-fats and saturated fats increases the risk of depression, according to a Spanish study, confirming previous studies that linked "junk food" with the disease.

Researchers also showed that some products, such as olive oil, which is high in healthy omega-9 fatty acids, can fight against the risk of mental illness.

Authors of the wide-reaching study, from the universities of Navarra and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, followed and analyzed the diet and lifestyle of over 12,000 volunteers over six years.

When the study began, none of the participants had been diagnosed with depression; by the end, 657 of them were new sufferers.

"Participants with an elevated consumption of trans-fats (fats present in artificial form in industrially-produced pastries and fast food...) presented up to a 48 percent increase in the risk of depression when they were compared to participants who did not consume these fats," the head study author said.



Almudena Sanchez-Villegas, associate professor of preventive medicine at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, also noted that in the event "more trans-fats were consumed, the greater the harmful effect they produced in the volunteers."

The research team found, at the same time, that after assessing the impact of polyunsaturated fats -- composed of larger amounts of fish and vegetable oils -- and olive oil, these products "are associated with a lower risk of suffering depression."

The report, published in the online journal PLoS ONE, noted the research was per-

formed on a European population that enjoys a relatively low intake of trans-fats -- making up only 0.4 percent "of the total energy ingested by the volunteers."

"Despite this, we observed an increase in the risk of suffering depression of nearly 50 percent," said researcher Miguel Martinez.

The report pointed out that the current number of depression sufferers in the world is around 150 million people, and has increased in recent years.

This rise is attributable, according to the authors, "to radical changes in the sources of fats consumed in Western diets, where we have substituted certain types of beneficial fats -- polyunsaturated and monounsaturated in nuts, vegetable oils and fish -- for the saturated and trans-fats found in meats, butter and other products such as mass-produced pastries and fast food."

Though not a focus of the study, researchers pointed out that deadly cardiovascular disease is "influenced in a similar manner by diet, and might share similar mechanisms in their origin."

## Bird flu spreads further in Japan



TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese health authorities said a fifth outbreak of bird flu since November had hit a poultry farm in the central region of Aichi, as local officials began a cull of 150,000 chickens there.

Since November Japan has confirmed five cases of bird flu at farms in four of the country's 47 prefectures. Some 600,000 chickens have been culled.

The flu has also hit Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures on southwestern Kyushu island, which are major poultry farming areas.

In Miyazaki, a foot-and-mouth outbreak last year forced the slaughter of almost 300,000 farm animals.

## Malaysia releases GM mosquitoes in landmark trial

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia has released 6,000 genetically modified mosquitoes designed to combat dengue fever, in a landmark trial slammed by environmentalists who say the experiment is unsafe.

In the first experiment of its kind in Asia, about 6,000 male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes were released at an uninhabited site in the central state of Pahang, the government-run Institute of Medical Research (IMR) said.

The IMR, which was tasked with carrying out the trial, said the experiment was conducted on December 21 to "study the dispersal and longevity of these mosquitoes in the field".

"The experiment was successfully concluded on January 5, 2011," the institute said in a statement adding that no further releases are planned until the trial results are analysed.

The insects in the experiment have been engineered so that their offspring quickly die, curbing the growth of the population in a technique researchers hope could eventually eradicate the dengue mosquito altogether.



Females of the *Aedes* species are responsible for spreading dengue, a deadly disease

The trial has sparked widespread concern among environmental groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and had been postponed due to their protests as well as unfavourable weather conditions.

"We don't agree with this trial that has been conducted in such an untransparent way. There are many questions and not enough research has been done on the full consequences of this experiment," has been told to AFP.

Critics have also said that too little is known about the *Aedes* mosquito, and how the genetically modified insects would interact with their cousins in the wild.

Dengue infection leads to a sudden onset of fever with severe headaches, muscle and joint pains, and rashes, which can lead to death if left untreated.

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## BACK THEN



Carnaval! was more personal back then. It was all about celebrating with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

There were unwritten "systems" in place along the route of the Grand Parade, for example. One parked the car along the route lengthwise so that food could be placed in the open trunk away from the street. Or if the vehicle of choice was a pickup truck, it was parked sideways so that those watching the parade could lean against the railings. That meant climbing up and down when watchers wanted to join in with groups performing.

Those participating in the parade walked, danced and marched. All the musicians walked, marched or danced. There were no huge flat-bed trailers loaded with electronics. A very elegant band from Argentina that performed at the Americana Hotel (now the Occidental) joined in the parade one year dressed in white shorts, white t-shirts and enormous sombreros to keep the sun at bay. And they walked.

Other music groups, such as steel bands, mounted their bigger drums on wheels and pushed and pulled. The music was as spectacular as the costumes and needed no artificial amplification. Marching bands were popular and

added not only a slight military taste but when played to Latin and Caribbean rhythms, cheers were heard from the beginning of the route to its final end. Later trucks would often pick up the bands and



return them to the start where they would catch a ride home.

The parade route was different than today when the floats and band wagons were not as huge and long. They couldn't later make the turn from Laclé Boulevard on Wilhelminastraat and the telephone lines were getting snared.

One amazing float was built by the late great artist William de la Vega and didn't win a prize because the judges couldn't believe it was built here. It was a tall replica of the King Willem III tower

at Fort Zoutman with a gargantuan figure of Godzilla beating its chest, about to attack. And there sat William with a long leash in hand which was attached to the neck of the beast. Along with his major works of art that are collector's items, he is still known for his small sign that appears overhead behind the bar at the landmark Charlie's Bar in San Nicolas: TIPPING IS NOT A CITY IN CHINA.

Along the original route were specific vehicles marchers watched for because they knew there would be wonderful food to be shared. One well-known restaurateur had pots of his famous pea soup kept warm. Another stop was for chicken wings; before Buffalo wings became popular these were a favorite for beach parties, dance parties, any excuse for

a party. One family gave out cups of bami goreng, the Indonesian favorite. And, of course, libations of all sorts and sources flowed like a mighty river.

Back then, the day of the Grand Parade was half day off for workers at the few hotels. By noon, they were gone.

Guests then had buffets served for the rest of the day. Employees saved their entitled days off in order to participate in the festivities. Those that stayed were promised off next year.

## SETAR N.V. delivers GPS system to Aruba Police

### GPS Navigator Units with a complete Aruba map will now be deployed



Aruba's national telecommunications company, SETAR N.V., provided the new GPS Navigator units for the Aruba Police Force, which were officially received by Chief Com-

missioner of Police, Adolfo Richardson. Account Manager Mr. David Dubero proudly represented SETAR N.V. in delivering devices in the presence of the Police Force Control Room Coordinator, Mr. R.A. Geerman and General Policy Officer Mr. E.R. Zebeda.



SETAR N.V. launched its GPS Navigator Unit recently; the system consists of three different Garmin models: the Nüvi 1200, 1310 and 1410. All three are equipped with a map of Aruba, which includes 858 street names, 34,000+ addresses and 572 points of interest. It has a text and voice

GPS-Units is ideal for car, motorcycle and ATV rentals. They can be used by the Police, Ambulance or Fire Department in case of an emergency. They are also excellent for delivery companies such as the Post Office or Express Services, and taxis.

The GPS Navigator units are available at SETAR N.V. Teleshops in San Nicolas, Santa Cruz, Seroe Blanco, Palm Beach, Irawquin Plein and the Airport. For more information about SETAR's GPS Navigator Units readers can visit the website: [www.setar.aw](http://www.setar.aw).



## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

1. Corn unit
4. Hairdresser's need
8. Refute
13. Plateau
14. Purple dye
15. Ham it up
16. Pretentious
17. Very dry
18. Discharged
19. Bakery output
20. Valuables
22. Wear away
25. Make lace
26. Nuisances
29. Presidential refusals
33. Confines
36. Rabbit
38. Saudi
40. Persian Gulf state
41. Carries
42. "\_\_\_ La Douce"
43. Scant
44. Unrefined metals
45. Beginning
46. Car style
48. Wading bird

## DOWN

50. Gel
52. Tree homes
55. States again
60. Actor Ely
62. Flick
63. Tidy
64. Story
65. Occurrence
66. Social event
67. Amino, for one
68. Homes for nomads
69. Hit with an open hand
70. Bunk
1. Strange
2. Fall flower
3. Light beam
4. Social levels
5. Unusual person
6. Swamp
7. Sheep sound
8. Deny
9. Arab prince
10. Tedious one
11. Western Indians
12. Sen. Kennedy
13. Chart
21. Rescues

## 23. Began

## 24. \_\_\_ Moines

## 27. God of thunder

## 28. Provides enough

## 30. Spoils

## 31. Hockey great

## 32. Ditto

## 33. Wheel part

## 34. Citrus drinks

## 35. Actor Richard

## 37. Take ten

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## 39. Flying mammal

## 41. Musical pitches

## 45. Spanish cheer

## 47. Resources

## 49. Foot part

## 51. Leans

## 53. Hint

## 54. Firm

## 55. Wander

## 56. Tied

## 57. Slangy

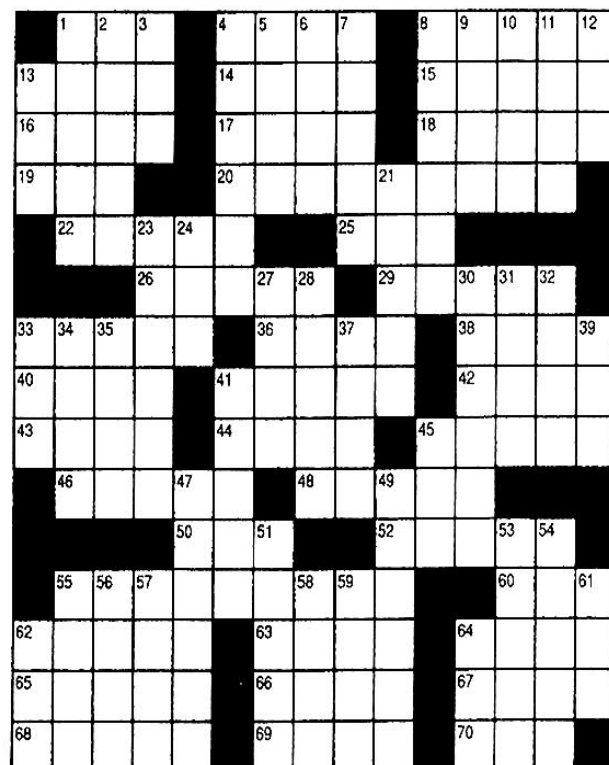
## 58. Actual

## 59. So long: hyph.

## 61. Actor Beatty

## 62. Encountered

## 64. Small flap



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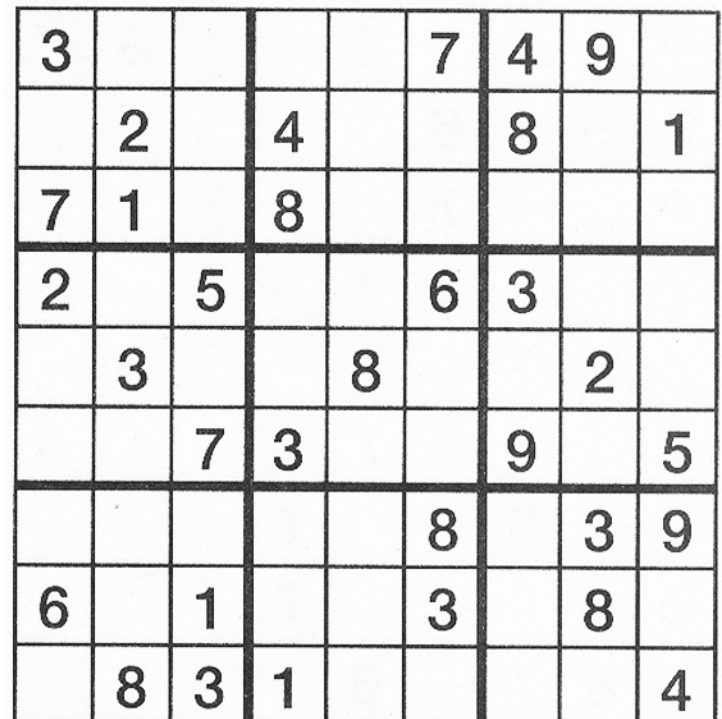
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# Sudoku



## SOLUTION

4	9	2	6	1	8	8	9
2	8	9	8	4	2	1	6
6	1	8	5	9	2	7	4
9	4	6	1	2	8	7	9
7	2	9	4	8	9	6	1
8	1	8	9	7	6	9	2
8	9	2	6	9	8	4	1
1	7	8	9	8	4	9	2
9	6	7	1	2	8	9	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





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## Finance

### Finance Briefs:

#### Pepsi says Russia approves mega takeover:

MOSCOW (AFP) – PepsiCo said that it had won full Russian approval for its acquisition of a local dairy and juices maker that will turn the US giant into the country's biggest food and drinks firm.

The world's second-largest food and beverage company said its purchase of Wimm-Bill-Dann had been approved by Russia's Federal Anti-Monopoly Service as well as the government's commission in charge of foreign investments. The deal makes Russia PepsiCo's biggest market outside the United States.



#### Pay-TV giant BSkyB announces profits surge:

LONDON (AFP) – BSkyB, the pay-TV giant being courted by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., announced on that its half-year net profit has soared 59 percent to £407 million.



The network, which screens live Premier League football and the Sky News channel, said the figure for the six months to December 31 compared with profit after tax of £256 million for the first half of 2009/10.

#### Euro mixed, stocks up on Japan downgrade, Fed pledge

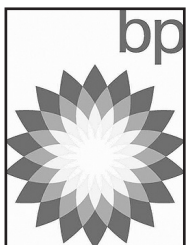
LONDON (AFP) – The euro was mixed and European stocks headed higher this week as markets reacted to a ratings downgrade for Japan and a pledge by the US Federal Reserve to keep its stimulus measures in place.

Amid ongoing concerns about the eurozone debt crisis, French President Nicolas Sarkozy declared that he and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel would never allow the euro to fail.

#### BP chief defends new exploration deal

DAVOS, Switzerland (AFP) – The head of British oil giant BP said the Gulf of Mexico disaster had "shaken us to the core," but defended oil exploration, including a new mega-deal with Russia's Rosneft. "If there's any company that is going to learn and change and respond and understand their great responsibility in moving ahead with exploration, it's certainly BP," he added, after signing a deal Russia's state-run Rosneft. BP inked a first agreement with Rosneft in mid-January to explore and develop the latter's three licensed blocks on the Russian Arctic continental shelf -- 125,000 square kilometres -- said to contain five billion tonnes of oil and 3,000 billion cubic metres of gas.

They will also set up an Arctic technology centre to focus on safety, the environment and emergency procedures.



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## Australians face flood recovery tax

SYDNEY (AFP) – Australia unveiled a flood tax on higher earners as Prime Minister Julia Gillard warned the deluge would shave 0.5 points off GDP in fiscal 2010 and cost Aus\$5.6 billion for recovery.

Gillard said the record inundation, which crippled the mining and farming state of Queensland this month, "may prove to be the most expensive natural disaster our nation has ever seen", with coal mines to suffer for months to come and farmers facing "seasons" of difficulty.

"Treasury's preliminary estimates are that GDP growth in this financial year will be about half a percentage point less due to the floods," Gillard told the National Press Club, providing the government's first official estimates of the disaster's economic impact.

The crisis continued in sodden southeastern Victoria state, threatening to over-run villages as they pushed towards the Murray, Australia's largest river, frustrating residents.

"This is day eight for us. It's getting a little bit hard to do night and day," said Natalie Goudie of the "black snake" of floodwater slowly encircling her tiny 200-person town of

Benjeroop. "We're trying to manage it. But at the moment it's managing us."

Warning that the figures were early and could rise, Gillard announced a raft of spending cuts and said she would introduce a one-off levy on middle and high income earners to meet the cost.

But Gillard, who holds a wafer-thin majority in parliament, may face an uphill battle to pass the measures after opposition leader Tony Abbott said his conservative bloc were against the move. They argue there is more room for spending cuts in the budget and Australians already face the prospect of a carbon tax.

Some economists have questioned the wisdom of hitting taxpayers when Canberra plans to reduce corporate tax rates, and say relaxing the 2012-13 target for returning to budget surplus would be more sensible.

Gillard must convince rural independents and a Green MP to back her when parliament reconvenes next month, which could prove difficult as most of the programmes slashed or put on hold were for carbon abatement or to boost particular regions.

One of her key allies, Tony

Windsor, prefers a permanent national disaster levy and warned her not to count on his vote, while fellow independent Rob Oakeshott said there were a "number of issues" with the government's package.

The prime minister said Canberra also would fast-track approval for temporary skilled migrants who wanted to go to work in flood areas in a bid to address labour shortages brought on by the country's Asia-driven mining boom.

Unemployed Australians would also be paid to move to Queensland and work. Australia's jobless rate is at 5.0 percent, a level considered consistent with full employment.

Gillard said the economy was strong enough to withstand the pressures of rebuilding without the government having to borrow extra money, stressing that doing so would ultimately increase inflation and interest rates.

Commodities-driven Australia was the only advanced nation to dodge recession during the global financial crisis, with strong Asian demand for its coal, iron ore and other resources helping it stave off the worst of the downturn.

## Indonesia says food security must be G20 priority

DAVOS, Switzerland (AFP) – Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said that food security should be a key priority for the G20, warning that soaring food prices could lead to more unrest.

"Indonesia fully supports the prioritisation of food security in the G20 agenda," the president told members of the world political and economic elite gathered at the Swiss ski resort of Davos for the World Economic Forum.

Citing United Nations food agency data, Yudhoyono noted that food prices have reached 2008 prices and "could still go up." "High food prices impact on inflation but also poverty and hunger which could lead to social and political unrest," he said. "In the medium and long term, we should be prepared for a growing world population," he added.

Cereal prices reached a record high in 2008, sparking

a food crisis and rioting in a number of African countries, as well as in Haiti and in the Philippines.

Violent demonstrations over recent weeks in several countries -- including Tunisia and Algeria -- have been provoked in part by escalating food prices.

Noting that the world population is already approaching seven billion this year and expected to reach nine billion by twenty-fourty-five, he warned that a failure to manage resources including food could spark the next conflict.

Yudhoyono, whose country is chairing the Association of South-east Asian Nations this year, said that Asia is "more than China, Japan and India."

"If you think of Asia, also think of Indonesia and ASEAN," he insisted, stressing that Indonesia would "feature prominently in Asia's renaissance."

But with Asia's rise, countries in the region should also be allowed to deal with their own problems through regional groupings, as the European Union is taking the lead on the debt crisis, he said.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

ACRE	SPA	SPT
CREE	EON	TAR
MADE	ART	ERAS
END	ARE	PEACE
EELS	MADDEN	
SNIP	SIT	EST
VILLAIN		
ERR	RAY	EARL
LEAPED	NEON	
SPIED	PET	TAM
EAST	PAO	BARE
VEE	ORE	ITEM
ESS	DEN	NERO

ALA	ARIL	GLAD
PAN	BADE	HAVE
SITUATED	ADAM	
EDICT	AGES	
LED	EVENTS	
PLEASED	ADORE	
EAT	WAR	TEE
SMOKE	BETWEEN	
TANNER	DOE	
ELIA	PEACE	
ACME	GRAPPLED	
MEAL	HILL	ADA
TNNS	TALE	SEM



## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with



town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only

construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management de-



the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260

a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an



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## A must see while on Aruba Bird Sanctuary



The Bubali Bird Ponds of Aruba have become home to more than 80 species of mi-

birds.

Birds that inhabit the sanctuary include herons, egrets, gulls, skimmers, coots, cormorants, numerous species of ducks and more.

An observation tower has been erected to allow birdwatchers to get a true birds' eye view.

The Bird Sanctuary (also known as Bubali Plas) is a hidden treasure located at walking distance from both the high rise resorts and low rise resorts.

The entrance is located more towards where landmark The Old Windmill is located. Entrance is free.



gratory birds.

Migratory birds, looking for lush vegetation in which to nest, find an oasis within the ponds, known as Bubali Bird Sanctuary.

The nearby water treatment facility empties into two inter-connected man-made lakes, known as the large and small Bubali Bird Ponds.

The area has become a resting and breeding area for the more than 80 species of migratory





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## Opera star Netrebko returns to St Petersburg stage



**Erwin Schrott and Anna Netrebko**

SAINT PETERSBURG, Russia (AFP) – Russian opera star Anna Netrebko this week made a sensational return alongside her real life partner Erwin Schrott to the Saint Petersburg Mariinsky Theatre which launched her career.

Netrebko first performed at the Mariinsky in the early 1990s and her sultry soprano and seductive looks rapidly made her one of the most sought after opera singers in the world.

She starred two nights alongside baritone Schrott -- her partner and father of her child -- in Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore" (The Elixir of Love) in a rare return to the legendary theatre which made her famous.

"Netrebko and Schrott gave a master-class of virtuoso performance and complete mutual understanding in acting," gushed the review in the nationwide Rossiiskaya Gazeta.

The production, already

shown with success in London, Paris and Milan, updates the action from the 18th century to the 1950s, and Netrebko said it would be applauded by the demanding Petersburg public.

"It's a great production. It's so full of humour and youthful energy," she said on Russian television.

The pair have also brought their two-year-old son Tiago with them to Saint Petersburg.

Netrebko, born in the southern city of Krasnodar in 1971, had a famously tough route to stardom.

Her first appearance on stage was aged 16 "as the back half of a Firebird" in the opera the Golden Cockerel, while as a student at the conservatory she washed floors at the Mariinsky to make ends meet.

But after causing a sensation in her debut in the Marriage of Figaro, she was mentored to stardom by the Mariinsky's chief Valery Gergiev.

## German police for protection from sex-mad wife

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) – A desperate Turkish man living in Germany has turned to the police for protection from his insatiable wife's constant demands for sex, authorities said.

The man came to his local police station in southwestern Germany on Tuesday saying that he had been sleeping on the sofa for the past four years to escape the clutches of his wife of 18 years and mother of

their two children.

"Now he has decided to get a divorce and to move out... in the hope of finally getting some rest, particularly as he is anxious to arrive at work well rested," police said in a statement. "At the moment this is impossible because he says his wife keeps coming into the living room demanding that he perform his marital duties. He asked for police help in getting some sleep at night."

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## Bollywood's Katrina Kaif denies tax evasion

MUMBAI, India (AFP) – Leading Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif has denied any wrongdoing after a raid on her home by tax officials investigating suspected tax evasion.

The 26-year-old star was "disturbed" by speculation she had failed to declare tens of millions of rupees in income after her Mumbai home was searched earlier this week by tax officials, according to a statement.

The statement sent to media organisations late from her accountant said her accounts were all in order.

"Katrina is fully cooperat-



ing with the IT department, whom she holds in high regard," it added.

Government officials said on Monday that they had raided the homes and offices of Kaif and another of Bollywood's most bankable female stars, Priyanka Chopra.

Kaif was born in Hong

Kong to a British mother and a father of Indian Kashmiri origin and switched from modelling to acting, scoring her first hit with the 2007 movie "Namaste London" (Hello London).

The weekly news magazine India Today said in its latest issue that Kaif earns 30 million rupees (\$670,000) per film and 25 million rupees a year for product endorsements.

Chopra, a former winner of the Miss World competition who has enjoyed huge on-screen success in recent years, has so far made no public comment on the raids.

## Ukraine perplexed as 'Kiev mayor vanishes'



KIEV, The Ukraine (AFP) – The eccentric mayor of Kiev Leonid Chernovetsky has failed to appear in public for over two months, prompting even the Ukrainian prime minister to ask where on earth he is.

"He is on holiday or what?" Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said at a meeting with the Kiev city administration chief.

"Without fail, find the mayor, tell him that Kievans

are missing him, that they want to see him. And ask him to return to work as soon as possible," said Azarov, a technocrat not known for his sense of humour.

President Viktor Yanukovich in November took away a large chunk of the mayor's powers when he removed Chernovetsky as head of the Kiev city administration and appointed top local official Olexander Popov in his place.

The four-year rule of Chernovetsky -- known as Kosmos for his other-worldly eccentricity -- has been highly colourful even by the standards of charismatic European big city mayors.

Accused of suffering mental

problems by his opponents, he once gave a press conference in a pair of swimming briefs and performed a string of exercises to prove his fitness.

He also famously offered to put his kisses up for auction and produce a sequence of record covers.

Popov refused to say where they mayor is, saying the question should be put to Chernovetsky himself. Asked if he had seen the mayor, Popov replied: "We are in communication with him."

Contacted by AFP, the press office of the mayor also said it had no information where he was. Media reports have said he left Ukraine in November to celebrate his 59th birthday in France.

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# Clijsters, Li set up historic final



## Clijsters

MELBOURNE (AFP) - China's Li Na stunned top seed Caroline Wozniacki Thursday to set up a historic Australian Open final with Belgium's Kim Clijsters, who crushed world number two Vera Zvonareva.

Li clawed her way back from match point down to become Asia's first female Grand Slam finalist 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, and lie one win from a maiden major victory which could ignite tennis's growth in her giant home country.

It was sheer delight for the beaming Li, who was beaten by Serena Williams in last year's semi-final, and heroically recovered from a dreadful start against Wozniacki which she blamed on lack of sleep.

"I didn't have a good night's sleep last night," she joked. "My husband (snored). I woke up every hour."

Li, China's number one, saved the second-set match point with a crunching forehand as she finally came alive and overhauled her fading opponent on a sun-baked Rod Laver Arena.

Despite a soaring error-rate, the Wuhan native came out on top of a nerve-shredding deciding set when Wozniacki drove one long on Li's first match point.

When asked what had inspired her gritty fightback, the crowd favourite laughingly replied: "Prize money", referring to the US\$2.2 million winner's jackpot.

But the result meant heart-break for Wozniacki, who remains without a major title, meaning she will undoubtedly face more questions about her legitimacy as the world's best player. Her best result is US Open runner-up in 2009.

The 20-year-old Dane has had a difficult tournament after sparring with the media -- at one point falsely telling press she was attacked by a kangaroo -- and being told

her media appearances were "boring".

"Sometimes in matches or in tennis it's one ball that can change everything. I didn't get my match point. From then on, well, she was just better at the most important points," said the despondent Wozniacki.

"Of course right now I'm sitting here and I wish I would have won the match. It's quite difficult to get through this one. I just need to get back on the practice court and keep working hard."

By reaching the semis Li was already assured of returning to the top 10, after becoming the first Chinese player to crack the elite group following last year's semi-final defeat to eventual winner Williams.

The trailblazing Li, China's first WTA champion, also remains unbeaten in 2011 after winning this month's Sydney International, when she shocked three-time US Open winner Clijsters in the final.

However, she will be in no doubt about the task ahead after Clijsters steamrolled Russia's Zvonareva with ominous ease to reach her second Australian Open final 6-3, 6-3 in just 1hr 13min.

Clijsters said she played her best tennis of the tournament. In 2004, Clijsters was runner-up to countrywoman Justine Henin, who an-



## Li

nounced her retirement overnight after an elbow injury.

But the result meant more frustration for Zvonareva, who was a beaten finalist at the previous two Grand Slam finals, including September's US Open loss to Clijsters.

"Vera is a tough player and I knew it would be a tough match against her," Clijsters said. "I knew I had to be on top of my game and lift my level compared to my other matches. I was able to rise to the occasion."

Zvonareva, 26, got off to a perfect start when she broke Clijsters in the opening game, but from there on the Belgian dominated. The 27-year-old barely made a mistake, banishing the erratic form that has plagued her career.

## United's Van der Sar to retire at season's end

LONDON (AFP) - Manchester United's veteran goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar will retire at the end of the current season, his management agency confirmed on their website on Thursday.

The 40-year-old Dutchman joined United in 2005 and has helped the club win three league titles and saved the crucial Nicolas Anelka spot kick in the penalty shootout victory over Chelsea in the 2008 Champions League final.

The former Ajax, Juventus and Fulham 'keeper said on the website of his management agency, www.sport-promotion.nl: "It is now time to pay attention to my family."

Van der Sar has been considering hanging up his boots since his wife Annemarie collapsed with a brain haemorrhage in December 2009.

"I cannot really identify a time when it - the decision -

happened," he said.

"Let's just say that it was playing on my mind from the moment Annemarie had her stroke."

"She has fought back from it. We decided on another year in England and thus to stay at Manchester United."

"But, once engaged in the season, the thought of saying goodbye started to gnaw a bit more emphatically."

United goalkeeping coach Eric Steele believes Van der Sar will go down alongside Peter Schmeichel as one of the club's greats following his heroics in the 2008 Champions League final in Moscow.

"It has been a mutual decision between the manager, the team and Edwin."

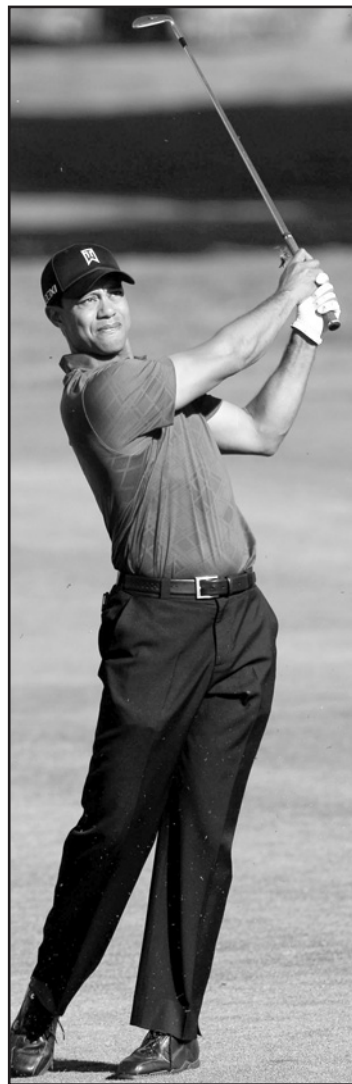
"He has been a fantastic servant. I was very lucky. I worked alongside Peter Schmeichel at Villa and I worked with Edwin for two and a half years."

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## Woods opens with 69 at Torrey Pines



LA JOLLA, California (AFP) - Former world number one Tiger Woods launched his 2011 US PGA Tour campaign with a modest three-under par 69 on Thursday in the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open.

## Vitali Klitschko says retirement not far off

BERLIN (AFP) - World heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko said Thursday that his retirement was not far off, but that he still had a couple of fights left in him yet.

"I feel like a 25-year-old but on paper I'm a 'boxing grandpa' -- I am well aware of that," the 39-year-old, who defends his WBC title against the unbeaten Cuban Odanier Solis in Cologne on March 19, told the German daily Bild.

Woods, playing on the North Course of Torrey Pines, had three birdies and no bogeys but couldn't build significant momentum on the course considered the easier of the two in use for the event.

Woods, whose current number three ranking is his lowest in seven years, hasn't won a tournament since the 2009 Australian Masters.

His 2010 season was marked by the turmoil of a sex scandal that ended his marriage and struggles on the course as he implemented swing changes with coach Sean Foley.

In returning to Torrey Pines to launch what he hopes will be a season of renewal, Woods finds himself at a venue where he has won seven times as a professional -- six in the regular US PGA Tour event and in the 2008 US Open.

That Open triumph -- in a playoff over Rocco Mediate -- was Woods' most recent prior appearance at the seaside course north of San Diego.

Recovery from knee surgery kept him out of 2009's PGA tour stop here and he missed last year amid the fallout from revelations of marital infidelity.

Woods, who will play the South Course on Friday, opened on the 10th tee and picked up his first birdie at the par-three 12th and added birdies at the par-four second and par-three sixth.

He said that he wife Natalie, who is keen on seeing her husband hanging up his gloves, "won't have to wait that much longer."

He said: "Lots of sportsmen have missed the right moment to end their career. That's not going to happen with me ... Every fight carries with it a big risk. You have to be realistic."

"But there will be a couple of fights yet."



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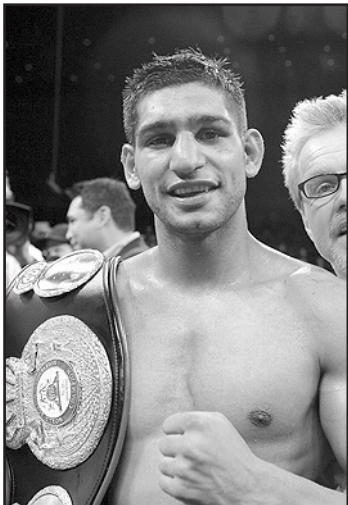
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## Khan, Pacquiao await US light-welter hopefuls



**Khan**

PONTIAC, Michigan (AFP) — Undefeated Americans Devon Alexander and Tim Bradley meet Saturday in a world light-welterweight title unification fight that could send the winner against Manny Pacquiao or Amir Khan.

Southpaw Alexander, the World Boxing Council champion, is 21-0 with 13 knockouts while Bradley, 26-0 with 11 knockouts, holds the lesser-regarded World Boxing Organization crown.

Barring a Pacquiao deal to

## Capitals sign Semin to one-year contract extension

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Russian right wing Alexander Semin, who shares the NHL lead with three hat-tricks this season, has signed a one-year contract extension with the Washington Capitals, the team said Thursday.

The 26-year-old playmaker, a first-round selection in the 2002 NHL Draft, will be paid 6.7 million dollars for a seventh season with the club he led to last season's best regular-season record in the NHL.

Semin has scored 166



**Pacquiao**

face unbeaten welterweight Floyd Mayweather, the fighter who emerges unbeaten at the Pontiac Silverdome puts his name on the short list of contenders for the Filipino star, who fights Shane Mosley in May.

"Boxing right now is at a low," Bradley said. "We are the most talented division in boxing and we are going to bring it back just like the old days."

"This is the best fight in boxing because you are not going to see Manny and Floyd fight any time soon."

Until then, Alexander and

goals in 366 career games, ranking 11th on the all-time Capitals scoring.

Semin scored a career-high 40 goals last season and sizzled to open the 2010-2011 campaign, netting his three hat tricks within 35 days starting October 23.

But Semin has not played since January 8 because of a thigh injury and while he has 18 goals on the season, second-best on the team, he has not scored since November 28, two days after netting the most recent of his hat tricks.

Bradley hope they can generate some attention.

"This is the biggest fight outside of a Pacquiao versus Mayweather," said Alexander. "Two undefeated champions going at it toe-to-toe -- it's going to be an amazing fight."

Another appealing match-up for the winner would be with England's Khan for an all-but undisputed division

title, with Khan owning the World Boxing Association crown and the International Boxing Federation title vacant.

"The winner of these two fights will definitely have to fight Amir Khan," Bradley said. "Nobody knows who is number one 'til we get in the ring."

Alexander "the Great" dismisses Khan's claim to be the division's top man no matter which American wins.

"Khan is an OK fighter. He's no big deal," Alexander said. "I don't know what all the hype is about but he has a little power behind him. People think he's more than what I think he is."

"We shouldn't be dwelling on Khan. I'm seeking greatness. Will Khan take the fight? That's the problem. I think he's being pampered."

Bradley sees Khan as the more immediate foe to dispatch before thinking about a Pacquiao or Mayweather.

"There is so much business to take care of at 140 pounds before I would think about the Pacquiao and the Mayweathers, which I would like to do," Bradley said.

"Each weight class needs one king and that's what we are going to do at 140."

## Knicks surpass Lakers as NBA's most valuable



NEW YORK (AFP) — The New York Knicks have sur-

passed the league champion Los Angeles Lakers as the National Basketball Association's most valuable franchise, Forbes magazine said.

New York's franchise value climbed 12 percent to \$655 million, the magazine reported in its annual evaluation of sports teams. Sponsorships and ticket sales were the main factors for the increase.

The Lakers went up by six percent to \$643 million.

The magazine said that 17 of the NBA's 30 teams lost money last season.



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## Record crowd expected for Super Bowl



**A night view of Cowboys Stadium which will host Super Bowl XLV**

NEW YORK (AFP) — A record Super Bowl crowd of about 105,000 people is expected to attend the February 6 championship game between the Green Bay Packers and Pittsburgh Steelers, NFL officials said Thursday.

That total, however, includes 5,000 people who will pay 200 dollars each to watch the spectacle on giant television screens outside 1.3 billion-dollar Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

The stadium will seat 95,000 spectators, including

those in luxury suites, and another 5,000 members of the NFL staff or media.

If expectations are met, the throng in and around the stadium could exceed the population of Green Bay, Wisconsin — a north-central US city of about 104,000 people whose gridiron love predates the formation of the NFL.

The standing record Super Bowl attendance of 103,985 was set in 1980 when the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Los Angeles Rams at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, site of the 1994 FIFA World Cup final.

## Djokovic conquers Federer to reach final

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Novak Djokovic signalled a possible new order after ending Roger Federer's title defence at the Australian Open in a titanic semi-final on Thursday.

The resurgent Serbian third seed wore down the 16-time Grand Slam champion 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 6-4 in three hours to repeat his semi-final win over the Swiss great when he went on to win his lone major title at the 2008 Australian Open.

Djokovic will now play the winner of Friday's semi-final between British fifth seed Andy Murray and Spain's seventh seed David Ferrer in Sunday's title match.

Significantly, it will be the first Grand Slam for three years without Rafael Nadal or Federer.

With world number one Nadal out of the tournament amid fresh doubts over his fitness, and now Federer vanquished, Djokovic's triumph may have signalled a changing of the guard at the top of men's tennis.

"It was really hard to challenge them, especially in the big events where they play their best tennis," Djokovic said. "Now these things are changing a little bit, so from



**Djokovic celebrates**

that perspective it's good for the sport."

"(But) Roger is still very much motivated to reclaim the first spot in the rankings and Nadal has been a very dominant player. We are still behind them," he added.

"There are more players who are able to win majors, which is good."

Djokovic said his performance to dethrone Federer was one of his best.

"He puts a lot of pressure on you, so I tried to stay to the last moment and really it was one of the best matches I've played in a while,"

Djokovic said.

"I am just happy to overcome the tough moments to play my best tennis."

It was Djokovic's third win over Federer in a Grand Slam semi-final, and he now leads the Swiss great 3-2 in their encounters at the majors.

The world number three repeated his classic straight-sets win over Federer in the semi-finals in Melbourne three years ago, when he went on to beat Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the final for his maiden Grand Slam title.

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